

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A testing device for testing or analysing fluids and comprising:

at least one ~~sheet or plate-like~~ test member (~~11, 20~~) including an analysis reagent and having opposite side surfaces surrounded by edge portions, and

a ~~separately produced~~ holder (~~10, 19~~) ~~having~~ including retaining means for receiving and retaining the test member in a predetermined relative position in the holder,

said retaining means comprising an abutment surface (~~13, 22~~) engaging with one of said side surfaces of the test member and projections (~~15, 15a~~), which are positioned and shaped so as to allow insertion of the test member into the holder by moving the test member into engagement with said abutment surface while engaging with opposite edge portions thereof.

2. (Currently Amended) A testing device according to claim 1, wherein the projections (~~15~~) are tooth-shaped with pointed ends.

3. (Currently Amended) A testing device according to claim 1, wherein each of at least some of the projections (~~15~~) ~~has~~ comprises a leading edge (~~16~~) forming a ramp sloping

towards a plane defined by the abutment surface so as to facilitate insertion of the test member into the holder.

4. (Currently Amended) A testing device according to claim 1, wherein each of at least some of the projections (15) has a trailing edge or surface (17) extending substantially parallel with and spaced from a plane defined by the abutment surface.

5. (Original) A testing device according to claim 1, wherein the projections are positioned so as to be differently spaced from the plane defined by the abutment surface.

6. (Currently Amended) A testing device according to claim 1, wherein the holder (19) is a comprises a channel-shaped member having including an inner bottom surface (22) defining said abutment surface and opposite inner side surfaces (24) from which projections (15) extend in opposite directions.

7. (Currently Amended) A testing device according to claim 1, wherein the test member (20) is an elongated member of the "lateral flow stick" type, in which the fluid to be tested is supplied at one end (24) of the elongated test member.

8. (Currently Amended) A testing device according to claim 1, wherein the holder (10) is frame-shaped and defines an opening (14) therein, the abutment surface (13) extending around and adjacent to said opening.

9. (Currently Amended) A testing device according to claim 1, wherein the holder (10, 49) ~~has~~ includes upper and lower complementary surfaces so as to allow stacking of a plurality of testing devices on top of each other.

10. (Currently Amended) A testing device according to claim 9, wherein said complementary surfaces are shaped so as to allow mutual displacement of stacked testing devices in a direction ~~transversely~~ transverse to the longitudinal direction of the stack.

11. (Currently Amended) A method for colorimetrically testing milk comprising placing a sample of the milk onto the test member of the testing device according to claim 1, allowing the analysis reagent to react with the sample and colorimetrically determining the reaction with an analyzer. ~~for use in colorimetric testing of milk.~~

12. (Currently Amended) A holder for a testing device according to claim 1, said holder (10, 49) comprising means for receiving and retaining a ~~sheet or plate-like~~ test member (11, 20), which has comprises opposite side surfaces surrounded by edge portions, in a predetermined relative position in the holder, said receiving and retaining means comprising an abutment surface (13, 22) for engaging with one of said side surfaces of the test member and projections (15, 15a), which are positioned and shaped so as to allow insertion of the test member into the holder by moving the test member into engagement with said abutment surface while engaging with opposite edge portions thereof.

13. (Currently Amended) A holder according to claim 12, wherein the projections ~~(15)~~ are tooth-shaped with pointed ends.

14. (Currently Amended) A holder according to claim 12, wherein each of at least some of the projections has includes a leading edge ~~(16)~~ forming a ramp sloping towards a plane defined by the abutment surface so as to facilitate insertion of the test member into the holder.

15. (Currently Amended) A holder according to claim 12, wherein each of at least some of the projections has includes a trailing edge or surface ~~(17)~~ extending substantially parallel with and spaced from a plane defined by the abutment surface.

16. (Original) A holder according to claim 12, wherein the projections are positioned so as to be differently spaced from the plane defined by the abutment surface.

17. (Currently Amended) A holder according to claim 12, wherein the holder is a channel-shaped member ~~(19)~~ having an inner bottom surface ~~(22)~~ defining said abutment surface and opposite inner side surfaces ~~(21)~~ from which projections ~~(15, 15a)~~ extend in opposite directions.

18. (Currently Amended) A holder according to claim 12, wherein the holder (~~10~~) is frame-shaped and defines an opening (~~14~~) therein, the abutment surface (~~13~~) extending around and adjacent to said opening.

19. (Currently Amended) A holder according to claim 12, wherein the holder ~~has~~ includes upper and lower complementary surfaces so as to allow stacking of a plurality of holders on top of each other.

20. (Currently Amended) A holder according to claim 19, wherein said complementary surfaces are shaped so as to allow mutual displacement of stacked holders in a direction ~~transversely~~ transverse to the longitudinal axis of the stack.

21. (Original) A holder according to claim 12, wherein the holder has been integrally formed.

22. (Original) A testing device according to claim 1, wherein the holder further comprises an upper side and a lower side in relation to an analysis instrument, and wherein the retaining means are positioned and shaped so as to allow insertion of the test member in to the holder from the upper side.

23. (Original) A holder according to claim 12, wherein the holder further comprises an upper side and a lower side in relation to an analysis instrument, and wherein the

retaining means are positioned and shaped so as to allow insertion of the test member in to the holder from the upper side.

24. (Currently Amended) A cartridge for receiving, storing and unloading a plurality of stacked testing devices, the cartridge comprising:

- a housing defining an internal passage for said ~~stack of sticks~~ plurality of stacked testing devices, said housing comprising:
 - a lower charge opening for receiving said ~~stack of~~ plurality of stacked testing devices,
 - a support member for supporting a lower testing device in said ~~stack~~ plurality of stacked testing devices,
 - an upper abutment surface for engaging with an upper testing device in the plurality of stacked testing devices ~~stack~~, and
 - an upper discharge opening, substantially aligned with said upper testing device, so as to allow discharge of said upper testing device by displacing the ~~same~~ upper testing device along said abutment surface.

25. (Currently Amended) A cartridge according to claim 24, wherein the housing is assembled by of two halves, together defining ~~oppositely~~ opposite side surfaces, and a front and a back surface.

26 (Currently Amended) A cartridge according to claim 25, wherein the two halves are ~~detachable or non-detachable~~ detachably or non-detachably assembled.

27. (Original) A cartridge according to claim 24, wherein at least the discharge opening comprises guiding trails or incisions for guiding a testing device upon discharging.

28. (Currently Amended) A cartridge according to claim 24, wherein the side surfaces comprise guiding trails for guiding said plurality ~~stack~~ of stacked testing devices through the passage.

29. (Original) A cartridge according to claim 25, wherein the side surfaces further comprise at least one serrated track on the inside, forming one side of an internal one-way stair for a support member.

30. (Currently Amended) A cartridge according to claim 24, ~~where-in~~ wherein the support member is movable in relation to the housing.

31. (Currently Amended) A cartridge according to claim 24, further comprising one-way means associated with the movable support member allowing the movable support member to move in a direction towards the upper abutment surface, ~~only~~.

32. (Currently Amended) A cartridge according to claim 31, wherein said one-way means ~~comprise~~ comprises at least one succession of teeth, ~~such as a rack or ratchet teeth,~~ and at least one pawl member co-operating therewith.

33. (Currently Amended) A cartridge according to claim 24, comprising at least two pawl members, which are connected to the supporting member ~~for to co-operating co-~~
operate with a succession of teeth formed on an inner side surface of the storage container, the free ends of the pawl members being spaced in the longitudinal direction of the container by a distance being different from a multiple of the pitch of the succession of teeth, ~~preferably smaller than said pitch.~~

34. (Original) A cartridge according to claim 25, wherein at least one of the side surfaces further comprises a locking device in the vicinity of the discharge opening, for preventing unintentional discharges of testing devices.

35. (Original) A cartridge according to claim 34, wherein the locking device comprises at least one flexible protrusion obstructing at least a part of said discharge opening.

36. (Original) A cartridge according to claim 24, further comprising an external protrusion for abutting a support surface on a storage carousel in an analysis instrument.

37. (Currently Amended) A load device for loading a stack of testing devices into a cartridge, the load device comprising:

- a base member,

- a first and a second column oppositely arranged and extending upwards from said base member, and ~~being~~ adapted to receive and hold one or more testing devices ~~there between~~ therebetween, and
- a lifting device for slidably lifting at least one of ~~more~~ said testing devices along said columns.

38. (Original) A load device according to claim 37, wherein each column comprises a groove for receiving and guiding an end of a test stick.

39. (Original) A load device according to claim 37, wherein the lifting device comprises a handle for manually sliding said lifting device along said columns.

40. (Original) A load device according to claim 37, wherein the lifting device is automatically slid along said columns.

41. (Original) A load device according to claim 37, wherein the lifting device further comprises a support surface for supporting at least a part of the lower testing device in said stack of testing devices.

42. (Currently Amended) A load device according to claims 41, wherein the stack of ~~sticks~~ testing devices ~~are~~ is loaded into a cartridge according to claim 24 and wherein the support member of said cartridge is arranged between said support surface of said lifting device and the lower most testing device in said stack.

43. (Currently Amended) A load device according to claim 37, wherein the lifting device further comprises guiding means abutting a side portion of said first and second columns so as to guide the device along the columns.

44. (Currently Amended) A method for loading a plurality of testing devices into a cartridge by using a load device, the load device comprising:

- a base member,
- a first and a second column oppositely arranged and extending upwards from said base member, and being adapted to receive and hold one or more testing devices ~~there~~ between therebetween, and
- a lifting device for slidably lifting at least one of ~~more~~ said testing devices along said columns,

the method comprising the steps of:

- stacking one or more of said testing devices between the columns,
- ~~guide~~ guiding an empty cartridge from above the columns and down towards the base member,
- lifting the lifting device ~~in order~~ to push the ~~sticks~~ testing devices upwards until the upper most testing device abuts an upper abutment surface of said cartridge,
- removing the cartridge loaded with the ~~sticks~~ testing devices from said load device.

45. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 44, further comprising, prior to the step of ~~placing~~ stacking at least one of said testing devices, the step of placing a support member between the columns for supporting and holding the stack of testing devices inside said cartridge upon removing the ~~loaded~~ cartridge loaded with the testing devices.

46. (New) A testing device according to claim 1, wherein the test member has the shape of a sheet-like or plate-like test member.

47. (New) A cartridge according to claim 32, wherein said at least one succession of teeth comprises rack or ratchet teeth.

48. (New) A cartridge according to claim 33, wherein the distance is smaller than said pitch.